

Friends of the Willmar Public Library

Annual meeting

Jan. 31, 2024

Present: Jeni Ritz, president; Anne Polta, secretary; Deb Paterson, treasurer; Bill Paterson; Vicki Melbye; Sandra Gardner

Staff: Maida Berg, adult services librarian/staff liaison

Members present: Pam DeKraai, Margaret Johnson, Marlene Vossen

Motion by Bill, second by Vicki, to approve the minutes of the 2022 annual meeting. Motion carried. The agenda for the meeting was adopted by consent.

The Willmar Public Library staff report on programs and services that benefited in 2023 from Friends support was presented. Funds were allocated in two general areas: expanding the large print collection and enhancing programs for library patrons of all ages. In 2023 the library used \$1,175 to partially cover the purchase of a subscription service through Thorndike/Cengage that provides popular fiction and nonfiction large print titles on a monthly basis over the year. This subscription included 60 titles for the year,

The Willmar Public Library also used \$2,100 in Friends of the Library donation funds for library program support in 2023. The bulk was spent on summer reading prizes, contest prizes and the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Funds also were used for a series of sessions on alcohol ink art. Funds were allocated equally among adult, teen and children's programs.

Jeni Ritz presented the Friends annual report and an overview of funds provided directly to the library in 2023. The total of \$10,052.43 includes \$3,552.43 from the Friends Fund with the Willmar Area Community Foundation and \$6,500 from Wisdom and Wine proceeds. In addition, \$1,257 was received from Give to the Max and deposited in the Friends Fund with the WACF. The grand total is \$11,319.43 in 2023 that was directly gifted or invested toward future grants to the Willmar Public Library.

Motion by Vicki, second by Bill, to accept the treasurer's report for 2023. Motion carried. Motion by Deb, second by Sandra, to approve the Wisdom and Wine financial report for 2023. Motion carried. Vicki also reported on plans for Wisdom and Wine 2024

and the authors who will be featured.

Maida reported that workers are being lined up to help with the library book sale scheduled for Feb. 29-March 2. A schedule will be developed. Donated books will be accepted for the sale as long as they are fairly recently published and in good condition.

The slate of officers for 2024 was presented as follows: Jeni Ritz, president; Sandra Gardner, vice president; Deb Paterson, treasurer; Bill Paterson, at large; Vicki Melbye, at large. The secretary position is currently unfilled. Motion by Margaret Johnson, second by Marlene Vossen, to approve, Motion carried. Anne Polta was thanked for her past service as secretary.

There being no further business, the annual meeting was adjourned.

Anne Polta, secretary